

## **The Wednesday Word, June 21, 2017: The Wonderful Priesthood of the Believer!**

1 Peter 2:5, "You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood."

Who better to tell us that all believers are priests than Peter? He, after all, was, according to Rome, the first Pope. So, speak up Peter and tell us what you know about Priests. .... And Peter, pointing to the Scriptures, declares boldly that all believers are now Priests.

The Old priesthood has gone. Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, has made us a kingdom, priests before the Father. Because we are made priests, we, therefore, do not need human priests or so-called holy men to represent us before God. Every believer, without exception, is now a member of the royal priesthood. As priests, we go directly to God through Christ alone.

We, as believers, enjoy direct access into the very presence of God through Christ Jesus!

All believers are now in Christ, and it is in Him that we are a holy priesthood. Since repetition is the price of learning, let's repeat it... we go straight to the Father because of Christ alone. We do not have to attend seminary, don fancy robes or take the title of Reverend to do this. No indeed! Even if we have recently been converted and know little about the Bible, we are a part of the Holy Priesthood because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is our High Priest and,  
He is Perfect,  
His birth was perfect,  
His life was perfect,  
His death was perfect,  
His suffering was perfect,  
His sacrifice was perfect,  
His Blood was and is perfect.

And because of Him, we are qualified to bring our petitions and praises to the Father.

In the Old Testament, a Priest was a minister of God who offered sacrifice for sin. However, this kind of priesthood was abolished by the Gospel. Jesus Christ "offered one sacrifice for sins for ever" (Hebrews 10:12), and now, "there remains no more sacrifice for sins." (Hebrews 10:26)

The office of Priest has disappeared. Consider this, when Christ gave gifts to the Church (Ephesians 4:11), he gave some Apostles, some Prophets some Evangelists some Pastors and Teachers. Notice how in this 5-fold ministry, there is no gift of priest. That's because every believer is already a priest.

You may feel like a failing believer, but you are a Priest. Worship God in freedom. Let the blood deal with your sins and your conscience.

You may have no education, but you are a priest.

You may never preach from a pulpit or open your mouth at a meeting, but you are a priest unto God!

So away with this sham of professional priests who supposedly bring us to God. We don't need them! The Gospel is finished. It is complete. The mammoth work of redemption and reconciliation has been accomplished by our High Priest, Christ Jesus, who efficiently and successfully offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sin! In Him, the door to heaven is wide open.

Every believer is a priest, regardless of his or her full-time occupation.

You may be a gardener, but you are a priest.

You may be a Barrister at Law, but you are a priest.

You may be a businessman, sailor, engineer, council worker...whatever! If you are a believer, you are a priest!

As priests, we continue to offer sacrifices. However, these are no longer animal sacrifices but sacrifices such as prayer, praise and thanksgiving. 1 Peter 2:5 spells out this function. Indeed, as priests, we are to offer our lives as "living sacrifices," (Romans 12:1) and as priests, our lives are to be characterized by praise (Hebrews 13:15).

If we allow our identities to be shaped by this great truth of our priesthood, we will eventually act accordingly.

And that's the Gospel Truth!